

UAHC Challenges Justice Department Ruling On AIDS

Several months ago the Justice Department issued a ruling that would allow employers to fire people with AIDS if the employer merely *suspected* they might be contagious, despite all medical evidence to the contrary. Members of Sha'ar Zahav asked the leadership of the UAHC to intervene with Attorney General Edwin Meese, and to encourage him to rescind the ruling. The response was quick and decisive.

In a forceful letter to Attorney General Edwin Meese, the UAHC expressed "outrage and dismay" over the Justice Department's policy statement and urged that it be replaced with one "that reflects current medical information about AIDS."

The letter was signed by UAHC president Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler and Dr. Boris O'Mansky, chair of the UAHC's Committee on AIDS.

In its memorandum, the Justice Department essentially held that because of fear that AIDS is contagious, employers who fire workers suffering from AIDS or AIDS-related conditions would not be considered guilty of disability discrimination under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

In its letter to the Attorney General, the UAHC cited a statement by the Department of Health and Human Services, that there is no medical or scientific evidence that the AIDS virus is spread through casual contact.

"This statement has been reiterated by the director of the Centers for Disease Control, as well as by the American Medical Association in an *amicus* brief submitted to the Supreme Court," the UAHC leaders wrote, adding:

"Allowing employers to discriminate irrationally against AIDS sufferers does violence to the fundamental Congressional purpose of protecting the handicapped in the numerous historical

(Continued on page 4)



Once again the Unitarian Center sanctuary was filled to capacity with worshippers at CSZ services for High Holidays 5747.

PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

"Feminism and Judaism" Begins Lecture Series

The first of four public lectures at Sha'ar Zahav will be November 19 by Marcia Freedman. Her topic will be "Feminism and Judaism."

Freedman immigrated to Israel in 1969, and in 1973 was elected to the Knesset. She introduced legislation resulting in the Abortion Reform Law. She spoke out in favor of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestine conflict, and against discrimination against Israel's Oriental Jews and Arabs. She was a founder of the contemporary women's movement in Israel and became a member of the Prime Minister's Commission on the Status of Women.

Formerly a teacher of philosophy at Brooklyn College and at Haifa University, Freedman is currently Director of Marketing and Public Information for the American Society on Aging. She is also engaged in writing a book on her experience in Israel and the women's and peace movements.

Freedman's renown has placed her in *International Who's Who of Women* and *Who's Who in the World*. Her talk on the roots of Jewish feminism will begin at 7:30 pm in the CSZ sanctuary. The Education Committee is inviting the public. A small donation for the evening is suggested.

Semiannual Meeting

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's semiannual meeting will take place at 3 pm on Sunday, November 2. Committee chairs and elected leaders will present reports to the membership on what's happening at Sha'ar Zahav. This is the opportunity for members to ask questions and make suggestions about CSZ's programs. (It is expected that members will have their dues up-to-date at the time of the meeting.) Plan to attend and bring along your ideas and questions!

President's Column

Memories Are Made Of This

As I faced the congregation during the Kol Nidre with the Torah clutched tightly in my arms I wondered if I could ever experience a prouder moment. My heart was full to bursting, causing watery eyes and—my worst fear—the beginning threats of a runny nose. The Torah is heavy, and was making what felt like a permanent indentation in my forearm—but it was something I will never forget.

Once again, this congregation provided beautiful High Holiday services for hundreds and hundreds of worshipers in our community. Throughout the Holidays people kept on coming up to express their thanks and gratitude for what we were doing. For our part, it was the dedication and loyalty of so many members that made it all possible. Our thanks must go to the Ritual Committee who, with Rabbi Kahn, prepared the services; to the Membership Committee for our new brochure and for staffing the welcome table; to the Ensemble for their uplifting voices; to the Women's Havurah for their special welcome table; to the Family Havurah for supervising child care; to the Finance Committee; to the ushers; and to the many volunteers who helped prepare food in the kitchen and then had to clean it all up. Special thanks to Steve Greenberg for building the Torah reading stand, as well as the lectern stand for the not-so-tall among us, and a major hug to Chuck Norton for washing and ironing all the tablecloths. Randy Schiller and his traveling sound system ensured you could hear everything; Sharyn Saslafsky, P.R. Committee, made sure you knew about our services. The three people who pulled it all together—David Gass, Jay Feinstein and Shirley Liberman—deserve all of our thanks. If I've left anybody out—my apologies. Thank you, too. And to all of you who contributed to the AIDS Food Bank during Yom Kippur—thanks for the one-half ton of food we were able to deliver. What a mitzvah that was.

All of the work and tsuris of being President vaporized in that one moment at Kol Nidre. I will carry that lovely memory with me forever.

—Irene Ogus

Bikkur Cholim Home Visits

On the second day of Rosh Hashanah, members of the Bikkur Cholim Committee continued a congregation tradition and visited elderly Jews living in area nursing homes. They brought gifts of flowering plants and holiday sweets including honey cake, sweet bow-ties and apples.

Sen Talley, Victoria Berdon, Leila Raim, Jim Proctor and Paul Cohen visited the Hillhaven Convalescent Center on 19th Avenue. They spoke about the holidays, entertained with songs and Leila blew the shofar. Residents responded with words of appreciation and tears of thankfulness for not having been forgotten. Visiting relatives were surprised, and very pleased with our presence.

The Pine Towers Nursing Home was visited by Howard Bobren, Michael McCormick and Eli Weinstein. Both Jewish and non-Jewish residents were pleased to hear holiday music provided for the visit by Frank Masson. Even some of the more withdrawn patients showed on their faces that a connection had been made with the Jewish community.

Our annual visits to non-Jewish affiliated nursing homes is under the sponsorship of the Jewish Family and Children's Service. Their staff coordinator, Debbie Goodman, expressed her appreciation for our continued commitment to the whole community, especially during the current difficult period of the AIDS epidemic.

Members of the congregation will also be making Chanukah visits. You can participate in this personally rewarding experience by contacting Paul Cohen, chair of the committee, through the synagogue office.

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A New Camera

Advertising pays! Two months ago we ran an ad in the *Forward* announcing that we needed a staff photographer. Amy Blasenheim had just joined Sha'ar Zahav and since photography is a major interest, she saw this as something that was "just meant to be." Some of Amy's first shots appear in this issue. Watch for her at future CSZ events, and as she aims her camera your way, smile—and then say hello to the latest addition to the newsletter staff.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published 12 times annually by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce non-copyrighted material is freely given, credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$12/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the Synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Bob Goldware (Articles Coordinator), Stephanie Hannaford (Graphics Coordinator), Jay Feinstein (Advertising Coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Garry Koenigsberg, Alita Rosenfeld and David Stein (general editorial and production); Amy Blasenheim (photos); Frank Hyman, Ben Schalit, Barry Siegel, Sam Thal and Eli Weinstein (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by Artspec Imaging Ltd.

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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Contact Jay Feinstein (621-6594) for specific rates. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5.00 for up to 20 words, plus \$1.00 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the 10th of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste. For more information on advertising rates and charges, call the Synagogue Office at 861-6932.

Women's Havurah

Return of the Hot Tub-Havdalah-Potluck

This month's social event is a Potluck Dinner, Havdalah and Hot Tub at Irene and Rosalinda's on Saturday, November 15, from 6-10 pm. Wear the craziest socks you can find! They may win you a prize, and they will also ensure that our hostesses' new carpet remains white.

A creative, women-oriented Havdalah will be part of the evening. Women who wish can bring a poem or something special to share.

The Women's Havurah wants everyone to be able to enjoy the potluck, so please bring one copy of the recipe you have prepared so people with allergies and other food restrictions can eat well. Bring a dish according to the first letter of your last name: munchies A-E, salads F-J, main dish K-O, beverage P-T and dessert U-Z.

The Hot Tub-Havdalah-Potluck will afford a good opportunity for new women members and women interested in learning more about Sha'ar Zahav to meet the women in the congregation.

For directions to Irene and Rosalinda's, further information or for the calendar of all Women's Havurah events through next June, call the synagogue office.

If you can't make this event, mark your calendar for Sunday, December 7, for an afternoon of games and guessing each other from baby pictures, and Friday, January 16, for a pre-Shabbat dinner. Both events will be in the Oneg Room at Sha'ar Zahav.

—Marion Trentman, Chair

Progressive Judaism Speaker

Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, Executive Director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, will be the featured speaker at Friday evening services on December 5 at Temple Emanu-El. Sha'ar Zahav is co-sponsoring the Shabbat service with Congregation Sherith Israel and Emanu-El. The World Union is the international body of Reform Judaism and has member congregations in twenty-five countries around the world. Rabbi Hirsch will speak on "Tensions between Orthodox and Non-Orthodox: How Shall We Overcome and Co-Exist?"



TARJETA POSTAL
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DEAR COUSIN YENTE,

SO WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU! WORKING TOO HARD AGAIN ON YOUR AUNT YENTIE COLUMN? WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL US ABOUT THIS YEARS CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV RAFFLE BEFORE WE SPENT ALL THIS MONEY VACATIONING IN TIJUANA. I MEAN, FOR ONLY \$3 FOR 1 TICKET, \$10 FOR 4 TICKETS OR A WHOLE BOOK OF 12 TICKETS FOR \$25, WE COULD WIN THE GRAND PRIZE - A WEEKS TRIP FOR TWO IN PUERTO VALLARTA, MEXICO - OR MANY OTHER EXCITING PRIZES. HAVE WIRED THE COUSIN'S CLUB TO CALL CSZ OFFICE AND GET MORE TICKETS, FILL OUT STUB AND RETURN WITH CHECK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SEE YOU AT THE RAFFLE DRAWING AT

CAFE LATKE GRANDE, DEC. 27, 1986

En Tijuana sus vacaciones serán muy divertidas.
Your vacations in Tijuana will be full of fun.
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ADIOS, COUSIN R. *R. XXY*

P.S. THATS ME IN THE "KISS ME" SOMBRERO!

Jewish Home Journals

The Jewish community produces a wide variety of periodicals. The range of specialized titles—from *Judaism and Aging* to *Israel Philatelic Review*—illustrates the vitality and diversity of the American, and world, Jewish community. I have listed below a selection of general circulation Jewish magazines which you might be interested in receiving:

- **Moment** is edited by an articulate, astute and forward-thinking observer of modern Judaism, Leonard Fein in Boston. An exciting group of contributing editors—in America and Israel—regularly appear in *Moment*. This is the best written and most interesting Jewish magazine in America today. A typical issue might include: a report of a Seder with the Jewish community of Katmandu, a symposium on Israeli Jews' religious and political identity, a newly translated short-story by a great Yiddish author, and a photo-spread on a contemporary artist. *Moment's* writers generally represent the liberal perspective on contemporary issues. (*Moment*, Box 922, Farmingdale, NY 11737; monthly; \$27/yr., \$45/2 yr.—and frequent discounts.)

- **sh'ma**, published and edited by Eugene Borowitz, is subtitled "a journal of Jewish ideas/ethics." *sh'ma* has no pictures, no ads, no fancy covers, no upper-case letters in its titles and, most significantly, has no ideological affiliations. The board of contributing editors is unique—*sh'ma* is probably the only institution today in which important spokespeople for the Orthodox right and the secular left have joint participation. Most issues, which appear in

a small eight-page format, address a single topic from widely divergent points of view. *sh'ma* publishes on topics others would rather ignore—it devoted an issue to the circumcision controversy before anyone else would touch it, and some of the first articles by openly gay and lesbian Jews in the American Jewish press were published here. (*sh'ma*, Box 567, Port Washington, NY 11050; bi-weekly, Sept.-June; \$22/2 yrs.; half-price for disabled and retired people.)

- **Journal of Reform Judaism** is published by the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the national body of Reform rabbis. Most of the articles are by conference members and are about synagogues and communal institutions, contemporary Jewish life and practice and religious values. The important questions facing the Reform movement are debated in its pages. (*Journal of Reform Judaism*, CCAR, 21 E. 40th St., New York, NY 10016; quarterly; \$12/yr., \$20/2 yrs.)

Depending on your ideological loyalties or interests, you might also want to subscribe to:

- **Conservative Judaism**, official publication of the Rabbinical Assembly (3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027; quarterly; \$15/yr.)

- **Tradition** is the irregular publication of the Rabbinical Council (Orthodox). (Human Services Press, 72-5th Av., New York, NY 10011; approximately quarterly; \$24/yr.)

- **Reconstructionist** is generally regarded as the best of the movement-published magazines. It presents a progressive viewpoint on many topics relevant to our congregation. (*Reconstructionist*, 270 W. 89th St., New York, NY 10024; 8 issues/yr.; \$20/yr.)

- **Midstream** is a general-interest monthly published by the Theodore Herzl Foundation. It includes political coverage, fiction, ideas, movie and book reviews. (*Midstream*, 515 Park Av., New York, NY 10022; monthly; \$15/yr.)

- You can keep up with developments in Israel with a subscription to the **Jerusalem Post International Edition**. The *Post* is Israel's English language daily, and the International Edition, published weekly, includes major stories of the past week and a well-written and photographed magazine section. Most important of all, the *Post* includes a selection from the week's *Dry Bones*, the Israeli equivalent of *Doonesbury*. (*Jerusalem Post*, Box 5200, Patterson, NY 12563; \$25/6 mo.; \$45/yr.)

Next month: Bay Area published periodicals.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

UAHC AIDS Response

(Continued from page 1)

occasions on which they have been subject to fear, prejudice and stereotyping.

"In an open society, free access to information precludes the possibility of basing legal decisions on irrational fears. We, as Jews, are exceptionally aware of the mortal danger implicit in such prejudicial decision-making. Acknowledging this, we expect of our government protections similar to those that are demanded of employers generally—that all decisions be rational and reasonably enforced.

"The misinformed Department of Justice memo strikes a vicious blow to rationality and recourse in both government and the workplace.

"We call upon the Justice Department to withdraw this opinion and reissue a statement that reflects current medical information about AIDS."

We await his reply.

—Mike Rankin, UAHC Liaison

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Rare Types Give... Blood and t.l.c.

This year's High Holy Days Blood Drive sponsored by the Women's Havurah was one of the most successful ever. Some 20 pints of blood were donated at Irwin Memorial Blood Bank on October 11.

Blood donor volunteers included Merri Besden, Amy Blasenheim, Smokey Cormier, Laurie Davis, Jazz Duberman, Katherine Franke, Sherie Koshover, Mort Landsberg, Deborah Lindsay, Malloy London, Irene Ogus, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Leila Raim, Julia Raneri, Maggi Rocklin, Leslie Rome, Alita Rosenfeld, Susan S., Kathleen Savas, Judy Schwartz, Nancy Snow, Karen Strauss, Sen Talley, Dana Vinicoff, Roberta W. and Cathy Wick.

The t.l.c. was provided by Allan Berenstein, who again coordinated the Brotherhood's wonderful supply of home-made goodies, and a large contingent of "candy-strippers," including Paul Cohen, Michael Erceg, Jay Feinstein, Allan Gold, Bob Gutterman, Cheryl Orvis, Ron Lezell, Mark Mendelow, Sharyn Saslafsky and Rebecca Swisher, who supplied moral support, served juice, fruit and cake, and made everyone who came to donate feel very special.

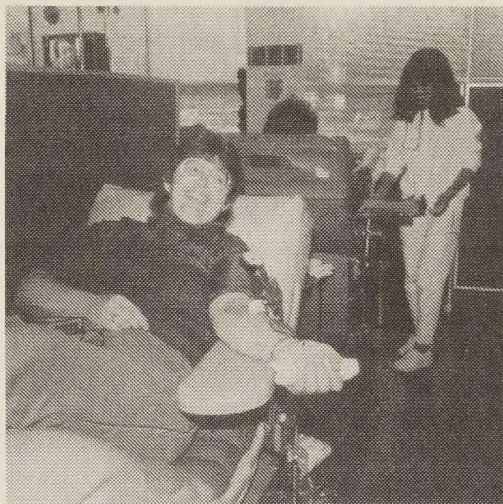


PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

Speaking of special—Nancy Meyer made a "special guest appearance" as coordinator emeritus! Thanks also to Accent on Flowers for again providing the dozens of beautiful long-stem yellow roses which were given to each of the volunteers. The event was a source of great satisfaction to us all, and the Blood Bank was very impressed at the turnout and at the way we treat our donors!

Without You...

Without all of the following volunteers it would have been impossible to have had our High Holiday services this year. Each took a little extra time to help out, to be an usher, to cut cakes, to wash dishes. We all owe a thanks to: Lawney Baldwin, Barry Rosen, Ora Prochovnick, Michael Lipson, Ed Lopatin, Mark Menedlow, Chuck Norton, Ben Schalit, Rob Tat, Allan Harris, Walter Palmer, Jeff Statnick, Sam Thal, Dana Lear, Sharyn Saslafsky, Kathy Sharp, Shelley Spiro, Willis Low, Eve Meyer, Bob Goldware, Lenny Brill, Jeff Presement, Allison Loebel, Allen Brandstein, Martin Kupferman, Pam Singer, Michael Erceg, Nathan Robinson, Allan Fletcher, Ed Tanovitz, Max Zaslawsky, Sylvia Roberts, Yoram Gal, Ellen Kugler, Irene Ogus, Rosalinda del Moral, Catherine Wisniewski, Leila Raim, Kipp Leyser, Steve Cronenwalt, and Josh Grayson. And to those whom we have inadvertently overlooked: we thank you also.

—Jay Feinstein and David Gass,
High Holiday Coordinators
and Shirley Liberman, Oneg Coordinator

Holocaust Family Album

A group of lesbian daughters of Holocaust survivors is producing a 30-minute video documentary entitled *A Holocaust Family Album*. The documentary will deal with the stories of how the parents survived and the lasting impact the Holocaust had on the families. It will touch on issues like the relationship of minority communities to human rights, parental disapproval of gay lifestyles, and assimilation or resistance as roads to survival.

For more information, write to A Holocaust Family Album, 63-A Manchester Street, SF 94110.

Please,

don't forget our brothers in need.
Keep filling the shul's collection
baskets with non-perishable food
and other household items for
the SF AIDS Foundation's
residence program

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

Don Albert, in honor of the birth of Eva Cheska Brown Miller

Irene Ogus & Rosalinda del Moral, in honor of Sen Talley's birthday; in honor of Eric Keitel in thanks for a great Western Regional Conference

Gordon Osser, in honor of the birthdays of Tom Rothgiesser, Al Baum, Rob Tat, Laurie Radovsky

Howard Bobren

Anonymous, in honor of Stephanie Hannaford—for all her hard work

Ruth & George Feldman

Don Berger

David Stein, in memory of Albert & Fannie Stein

Jon Funk & John Arnold, in honor of the first birthday of Joshua Kennedy Rose

Allen Harris, in memory of Philip Yanofsky

Ron Lezell, in honor of David & Alex's anniversary

Martin Kupferman, in honor of John Golebowski

Cheryl Orvis, in honor of the birthdays of Sharyn Saslafsky, Richard Inlander, Wendy Weiss, Ron Moskowitz, Rabbi Yoel Kahn; the anniversaries of Stephen Walters & David Marks, Beth & Ellen; the recovery of Walt Leiss

Bruce Katz, in honor of Ron Lezell for his commitment to social action and his untiring work for the congregation

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Joe Ellison's 80th birthday

Library Fund

Robert Kotch, in loving memory of his brother, David

Darlene Basmajian & Robert Matano, in memory of David Kotch

Leila Raim & Catherine Wisniewski, in honor of Jon Funk

AIDS Fund

Eli Weinstein, in memory of Mark Landsberger

Mike Lipson, in memory of Mark Landsberger

(Continued on page 6)

Spotlight on...

Dana Vinicoff

You can see Dana Vinicoff whenever the Sha'ar Zahav Ensemble sings. But you won't see her face, because she'll be busy conducting. You can see her facing the congregation when she's up on the bimah during services—perhaps delivering a sermon or singing a Hebrew chant or two in her distinctive soprano voice.

When Dana first heard of CSZ back in 1979, she was still attending a Lutheran church. She learned her aleph bet from her Jewish paternal grandparents in Harrisburg, PA. At age 11, she went to live with her father in Berkeley, and at age 15, she moved to Santa Monica to live with her Catholic mother. With knowledge of several different faiths, Dana found what she was searching for when she began attending services at CSZ in 1980. Here she found a place where she could express both her spirituality and her gayness.

Dana recalls how she immediately felt comfortable at Sha'ar Zahav. "The atmosphere was welcoming even though they were doing all this Hebrew that I didn't understand and all these songs that I didn't know. The gender inclusive language was just delightful." For Dana, this was only the beginning of her choice to re-embrace Judaism.

When Dana became a full member of CSZ in 1984, she started looking for ways to get involved. The perfect opportunity arose when the Ensemble, which had been invited to sing at a UAHC meeting, found itself without a conductor. Having a bachelor's degree in music with an emphasis on choral conducting, Dana was fully equipped to fill the position.

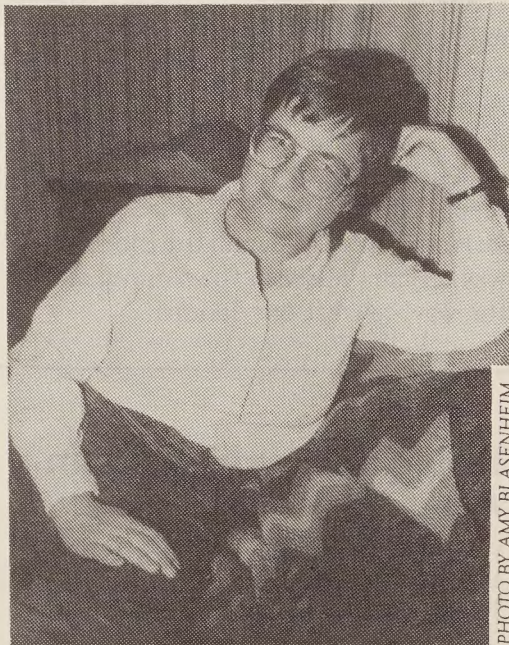
Then, last December, she joined the ritual committee. She says it's really a full-time commitment, especially at the High Holy Days. The Ritual Committee is a "fascinating crew," Dana said. "At our all day meeting in January, we shared our ideas about prayer. Everyone had a different notion about the place of God and prayer in his or her life. It's a wonderful strength to have such a great variety of people to prepare the services."

Last year, Dana also decided to become CSZ's delegate to the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jews, which so far has taken her to board meetings in Washington, D.C. and Boston.

Currently, Dana and her lover are planning a folkdance event for the Women's Havurah. Speaking of folkdancing, "CSZ has been pretty good to me romantically.

One of the reasons I began attending services was because there were women there." Dana spoke about meeting her lover in a Jewish music class at the shul. They later went folkdancing and soon decided that "we were mightily attracted to each other."

Now how can a woman with so much going on have time for anything else? Well, this dedicated volunteer strives to create harmony and balance in her life as well as in the Ensemble. A member of the California Bar, Dana has chosen to work in legal research and writing rather than practice law. On the lighter side, she is also a founding member of Mothertongue Feminist Readers' Theater.



Dana's volunteer activities have provided her with the opportunities to learn just what she'd hoped to learn—the music, the rituals, the Hebrew and, this year, blowing the shofar at Ne'ilah. She would like to learn more Biblical Hebrew and hopes that someday CSZ will offer such a class. She also feels that "Aunt Yente's instruction and advice have been priceless. Everyone needs an Aunt Yente." I nodded my head in agreement.

For my part, I'd add that Dana's efforts and enthusiasm as a volunteer really inspired me as we spoke during a very satisfying interview. You see, this is my first interview as your new reporter for "Spotlight"!

By the way, Dana asked me to pass on: "If there are any sopranos out there we sure could use you in the Ensemble!" Please call Dana (826-1629) if you are interested.

—Amy Blasenheim

Contributions

(Continued from page 5)

Building Fund

Leila Raim & Catherine Wisniewski, in honor of Jon Funk
Gordon Osser

Education Fund

Gordon Osser

Torah Fund

Don Albert, in honor of Richard McFeater's becoming Vice Chair of the NY Gay Men's Chorus; Richard Inlander's birthday; Alex & David's anniversary

Richard Inlander, in honor of the birth of Nicholas Sward Kline

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Robert Kotch

Allen Harris, in honor of the first born child of Rabbi & Mrs. Hayim Herring
Alan Linder

Allan Berenstein, in honor of David & Alex's anniversary; in honor of his parents, Agnes & Harold

Office Notes

Thank you to Jay Feinstein and Bob Goldware for decorative pictures to grace and enliven the office walls.

Thanks to Eli Weinstein for relieving a beleaguered secretary during the High Holidays by pitching in to answer phone calls.

Rumor has it that the sale of Rosh Hashanah cards has been a great success for the Sanctuary Movement's fundraising. Thank you Russell Discher.

Copies of the text of Rabbi Kahn's High Holiday sermons, "Families" (Rosh Hashanah) and "Living with Faith in the New Year" (Yom Kippur) are available from the synagogue office.

Thanks to the good gnome for her diligence.

—Jacqueline Letalien, Office Secretary

Anniversaries

- 19 Leslie Bergson & Nanci Stern
- 25 Peter Abinanti & Jeff Rils
- 26 Marilyn Kalman & Marta Wohl
- 27 Cindy Icke & Diane Sabin

NOVEMBER

תשרי - חשוון

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						29 Tishrei 1
30 2	1 Cheshvan 3	2 4	3 5	4 6	5 7	6 8
Rosh Chodesh I Congregational Meeting, 3pm	Rosh Chodesh II Education Comm, 7:30pm	Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Newsletter Comm, 7:30pm 130E Landers Class, 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm	
7 9	8 10	9 11	10 12	11 13	12 14	13 15
	Va'ad Meeting 6:30pm Newsletter Deadline	Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Soviet Vigil Green & Baker 11:30am Class, 7:30pm	Women's Conf. Meeting 7 pm Bikkur Cholim, 7:30pm Social Action, 7:30pm	Services, 8:15pm	Women's Havurah Potluck & Havdalah 6pm, 330 Collingwood
14 16	15 17	16 18	17 19	18 20	19 21	20 22
		Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Feminism & Judaism Lecture: Marcia Freedman, 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm	
21 23	22 24	23 25	24 26	25 27	26 28	27 29
28 30		Classes 7:30 & 8:45pm	Class, 7:30pm Newsletter Mailing, 11 Grandview Terr. 7:30pm		Services, 8:15pm	Services, 10:30am

Ritual Calendar

Friday, November 7

Parshah: Noah, Gen. 6:9-11:32

Haftarah: Isaiah 54:1-55:5

Jonathan Funk and Ron Lezell

Friday, November 14

Parshah: Lech Lecha, Gen. 12:1-17:27

Haftarah: Isaiah 40:27-41:16

Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Service Leader

Rev. Jim Mitulski, Pastor S.F.M.C.C.,
Sermon

Friday, November 21

Parshah: Va-yera, Gen. 18:1-22:44

Haftarah: II Kings 4:1-37

Ritual Committee & Friends

Saturday, November 22

Morning Service, 10:30 am

Friday, November 28

Parshah: Hayye-Sarah, Gen.

23:1-25:18

Haftarah: I Kings 1:2-31

Ritual Committee & Friends

December Preview

Friday, December 5

Parshah: Toldot, Gen. 25:19-28:9

Haftarah: Malachi 1:1-2:7

Ritual Committee & Friends

Tee For Two

As Chanukah approaches and you are dreying your *kup* for gifts for a friend or a lover, we have an answer: a Sha'ar Zahav T-shirt (\$10) or sweatshirt (\$15). And while you're ordering a gift, so why not get one for yourself? To order a T-shirt or sweatshirt, please use the enclosed order form. (Sweatshirts should be ordered a size larger as they run small.) The sizes available are small, medium, large and extra large.

Birthdays

- 4 Mark Reisman
- 4 Bob Kravitz
- 5 Frank M.
- 6 Debbie Lieberman
- 7 Steve Greenberg
- 9 Art Reichstadt
- 9 Neil Sechan
- 14 Jonathan Goldman
- 23 Arlene Hoffman
- 23 Randy Schiller
- 24 Hal Podgur
- 26 Allan Blumenfeld
- 29 Mark Vogel

Va'ad Report

The Va'ad held its first meeting for the new year 5747 on Tuesday, October 14. In his *D'var Torah*, Rabbi Kahn said that several people reported to him a change in their personal histories during the High Holidays. Even if the world around us seems largely the same as it was before Rosh Hashanah, we really have started over again. Rabbi Kahn asked those present to take a moment to reflect on what we were searching for during services.

In her president's report, Irene mentioned that planning for CSZ's Passover Seder is beginning. Garry Koenigsberg welcomes your ideas and suggestions for Pesach this year.

Treasurer Jerry Rosenstein was pleased to report that pledges from new members who applied in the last month have already brought the total over the goal of \$60,000 for the year. Of the \$5000 in dues that were not collected from last year, about \$3000 has been paid, but much of the balance may remain uncollectible. Jerry informed the Va'ad that a number of members still have not renewed their memberships.

Rabbi Kahn reported that a brochure on the Jewish response to AIDS has been printed and distributed. The Jewish Family and Children's Service is interviewing for a full-time social worker for AIDS.

Jacqueline Letalien's secretary's report indicated that she has examined the problems that exist at the synagogue office and is now focusing on improving the quality of the organization of work. Jacqueline is organizing CSZ's existing files and is creating a manual for policies and procedures.

Ellen Kugler, representing the Membership Committee, presented names of nine

people whose membership applications have been processed; they were unanimously approved. The Va'ad is looking forward to the presentation at its next meeting of a number of membership applications received during the High Holidays.

UAHC Liaison Mike Rankin reported the Social Action Conference in San Mateo was well-attended and included the participation of CSZ members. Mike will be speaking on Homosexuality and Judaism at Brandeis University. The current *Journal of Reform Judaism* contains a letter from Rabbi Kahn refuting some very homophobic statements in a previously published letter.

Jay Feinstein reported on the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Majority/Consensus Issues. Jay said that the recommendation, about how to deal with issues of equity and personal feeling after a close vote, was a modification of Robert's Rules of Order. The Va'ad decided to continue following Robert's Rules of Order, except that after a vote, a Va'ad member who feels strongly about the issue will have an opportunity to request that a motion for reconsideration be made.

Susan Unger presented a funding proposal for printing the Sha'ar Zahav Cookbook. She described the plans for raising start-up capital and for marketing. From each cookbook sold, after costs are recovered, \$3 will be donated to the AIDS Food Bank. The Va'ad decided to make \$1000 from the General Fund available to the Cookbook Project immediately, and committed to provide an additional \$1000 from a source to be determined at the next Va'ad meeting.

The Va'ad next considered and approved Richard Inlander's proposal to create an Action Alert List. Members may choose to have their names included on the list, which will be provided by vote of the Va'ad to organizations seeking to inform CSZ members of activities in support of goals shared with the synagogue.

Laurie Davis, chair of the committee planning the Women's Weekend Retreat in May at Camp Swig, described the goals of the event, which include: exploring the role of women and Lesbians in Judaism; increasing the female membership of CSZ; and developing leadership among the female members of CSZ. The event will be fun, intellectual, and religious. Almost 200 women indicated their interest by signing up at the Women's Havurah table at High Holiday services. The Va'ad approved a \$1000 loan from the General Fund for a deposit to reserve Camp Swig for the weekend in May.

Social Action chair Ami Zusman reported that the Supreme Court Forum attracted a good turnout. CSZ's sanctuary efforts are continuing: \$300 was raised from the sale of Rosh Hashanah cards, and \$550 has been raised toward the goal of assisting a refugee. A full-page ad will appear in the October 31 edition of the *Northern California Jewish Bulletin* listing endorsements of congregations who have passed anti-Proposition 64 resolutions.

After an executive session, this meeting finally came to an end, marked by the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Ben Schalit, Recorder

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MEMBERSHIP

Check it out.
Besides the benefits
it feels good to be
part of Sha'ar Zahav.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our Congregation gained more new members in October. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Roberta Achtenberg & Mary Morgan
Allan Altman
Mantra Helene Ben-Ya'akov
Paul Blanc
Tanyan Corman
Dana Lear
Jose Luis Moscovich
Alan Young

New members are welcomed and honored at Friday night services on the last Friday of the month. By making them feel a part of our family, we can all help to show our new members that they have a valuable place at Sha'ar Zahav.

Chanukah Book Fairs

In celebration of Chanukah, National Jewish Book Month and the anticipated opening of the Sha'ar Zahav library, the Education Committee is sponsoring a Book Fair on two Sundays, December 7 and December 14.

On December 7, in conjunction with the Family Havurah, there will be a fair spotlighting Chanukah for Children, with food, games, music, dancing and storytelling. It will be a wonderful way for children to learn about Chanukah. Also at the fair will be the newest and best Jewish children's books, as well as books and gifts for grownups.

The following Sunday, December 14, grownups will take the spotlight, with Chanukah food, music and a workshop led by Rabbi Kahn about the Festival of Lights. There will be storytelling by Mark Freeman, and a chance to see and buy some of the newest and best Jewish books and gift items.

So if you're seeking a super Chanukah gift for somebody equally super (or may-be even to donate to the new library), want to sample some special Chanukah foods, like to be enchanted by a story telling, or just want to start celebrating Chanukah early, then put these dates down in your calendar. And even if you absolutely cannot come, remember that the books and gift items will be on display in the shul during the week and after services, too.

—Bill Goldstein, Chair,
 Education Committee

Calendar for 5747

December 1986

- 7 Children's Chanukah Book Fair
- 7 Women's Havurah Game Night
- 14 Chanukah Book Fair
- 16 Last class of Fall semester
- 26 Chanukah Service (1st Candle)
- 27 Chanukah Party

January 1987

- 16 Women's Havurah pre-Shabbat dinner

February 1987

- 15 Women's Havurah Folk Dancing
- 27 -March 1 Regional UAHC Conference

March 1987

- 14 Erev Purim Service
- 21 Women's Havurah Video Night

April 1987

- 12 Women's Havurah Magnes Museum Docent Tour
- 13 Erev Pesach (1st Seder)
- 14 Community Seder (2nd Night)
- 26 Yom Hashoah Service

May 1987

- Congregational Meeting/Elections
- 15-17 Women's Conference
- 17 Lag B'Omer Service

June 1987

- Parade
- Installation of Officers
- 2 Erev Shavuot Service & Potluck
- 21 Women's Havurah Solstice Pool Party

July 1987

Leadership Advance

August 1987

- 4 Tisha B'av

September 1987

- 23 Erev Rosh Hashanah (10/2-Kol Nidre)

Remember

to keep us up to date. If you've moved, changed your name, have a new phone number, or wish to add a listing to our yahrzeit or anniversary records, please call or write the synagogue office.

Jewish Alumni Association

The University of California at Berkeley is organizing a Jewish Alumni Association, which will apprise its members of the ongoing Jewish Studies courses and public lectures taking place on the Berkeley campus. If you are a UC graduate or if you wish to be on the mailing list, please telephone 642-0740.

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So Ask Aunt Yente

Dear Aunt Yente,

I know Sha'ar Zahav is Reform, but does that mean that we have to adopt all the musical trappings of a church? The cellos, and guitars, and pianos, and choirs, and people singing psalms that sound like hymns—can we leave this to our Christian friends? Let's have traditional Jewish music for our services!

Convinced in Carmel

Dear Convinced,

You know what? Aunt Yente is just as convinced as you are. Only traditional Jewish music we should have in our shul! Just try something else: make Aunt Yente's day. The only problem is, for your Aunt Yente traditional Jewish music means all the rich, different musical styles that fill our history. She's a little afraid that you are thinking more the soundtrack to Fiddler on the Roof and Perry Como singing the Kol Nidrei. Not that you are wrong; Aunt Yente herself is a big fan of Perry Como, who may not be Jewish but wears very nice cardigans, and the music you like is certainly traditional. But, kinderlach, there is much, much more in our tradition.

To go back a little, there was once a big Temple in Jerusalem (no, kinderlach, not Emmanuel; this one was just called The Temple, and was almost as big.) They had there so many different choirs that they would rotate day by day, along with the musicians, who played horns, and cymbals, and harps, and lutes, and whatever else was handy. Most of the Psalms were written for these choirs to sing, and in your Bible you'll see many psalms dedicated "To the Chief Musician" or to groups like the "B'nei Korach" (an early version of the Hallel Brothers).

When the Temple was destroyed (see what happens when you don't pay dues?) we began to wander through the many lands, and our singing reflected our wandering. Very important was the minor-key music of Mediterranean countries. First this style was borrowed by the Jews who lived there, but when these Jews began to be known for their music, Jews in other places started importing from them chazans who knew these styles. But every step along the way things got changed. So probably what you consider the most "traditional" chants wandered from places like Salonika through Poland and Galicia and Lithuania before Perry Como even knew how to button a sweater.

But so much else was also going on. In Renaissance Italy, a wonderful composer named Salomon Rossi created fancy versions of the prayers in the formal style of his time. Later, the Chassidim used popular music styles to create *niggunim*, their melodies for wordless prayer, and for the prayers themselves. Always, Christian composers would borrow Jewish themes, and Jews would repay the compliment. If Aunt Yente was the kind of person who liked to talk a lot, she would tell you about the love songs of the Marranos, and the organs in the great German synagogues, and Moyshe Oysher and the other famous orthodox chazans and their choirs, and the effect of Yiddish theater and Jewish summer camps. But as you know, Aunt Yente likes to be brief. So instead, she'll simply tell you that "traditional" in Jewish Music includes *takke* everything, *including* the right to kvetch if the service doesn't sound exactly like it did in your grandmother's shul.

It is this last point that Aunt Yente suspects is behind your letter. Jews pray with music as much as with words, and so to change the music is *takke* to monkey around with the prayer. Aunt Yente can talk until she's blue in the face (one of her favorite activities) about how our "traditional" music is an incredible mishmash of styles from times and places you can hardly believe, and has always included modern music and instruments. But in the end, if so much new music changes the feeling of the service so your heart isn't in it, it doesn't help you, or our tradition, or God.

But on the other hand. The purpose of the service is praying, not a nostalgia concert of old melodies. Sometimes just a little shaking up can help. Does that one melody sound not Jewish enough? So maybe we can think a little about whether it's only Jewish prayer that really "counts." Would your great-uncle's synagogue not have used a cello because of halacha? Maybe it's time to think of what traditional halacha is still important to us, and what new halacha we should be thinking out for ourselves.

(Musical instruments at services are forbidden by traditional halacha, because instruments were used in the Temple. Synagogue services are not permitted to be too close to Temple ones, to avoid confusion (as among those who actually do think that Emmanuel is The Temple). Also, tasks connected with the Temple

service are "work" prohibited on Shabbos.)

So a little change in the service music is not a bad idea. If we start thinking that one particular musical style—or even some particular words—is more important than our prayer, then *takke* we should begin to wonder whether we are worshipping God or worshipping the service. The music and the words are only a vehicle, kinderlach, a car that can always use a new spark plug or even a new fender (especially when Aunt Yente is driving). Let's not get so worried over the upholstery of the car that we forget the dinner we're driving to. (You think Aunt Yente would let pass a whole column without mentioning food?)

—Aunt Yente

Aunt Yente will answer all your questions about Jewish law and ritual matters. Just write to Aunt Yente in care of the *Forward*, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, CA 94114. All material © 1986 Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Oneg Sponsors

During September, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 5 Mirtha Beal, in memory of Carol Fisher
- 12 Alan Young, in memory of his mother
- 19 Rosalinda del Moral, Irene Ogus, and Allyce Kimerling, in honor of Sonia Douglass' first year in this country
- 26 Anonymous, in honor of the Social Action Committee

All you have to do to sponsor an Oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an Oneg is approximately \$50 (partial sponsorship available) or you can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Jews and Recovery

A new Alcoholics Anonymous group, focusing on Lesbian/Gay Jews in recovery, will meet each Sunday beginning November 2 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the CSZ Oneg Room. For further information, please contact Sage at 558-9359.

Yahrzeits

- 1 Jennie Mantey, aunt of Bill Schlichter
- 2 Carmen Schlichter, grandmother of Bill Schlichter
- 4 Isidor Paker, father of Perry Paker
- 4 William Mantey, grandfather of Bill Schlichter
- 5 (3 Cheshvan) Abner Schmidt, grandfather of Don Albert
- 6 Irene Sherwin, grandmother of Rob Tat
- 7 Anna Gold, grandmother of Allan Gold
- 8 Dina Raven, grandmother of Allyce Kimerling
- 9 Joseph Goldstein, father of Bill Goldstein
- 10 Herman Wohl, Marilyn Kalman's lover's father
- 11 Charles Parsell, uncle of Bill Schlichter
- 14 Anna Cohen, grandmother of Jay Cohen
- 15 Leatrice Billig, friend of Robin Leonard
- 15 Leah Saslasky, grandmother of Sharyn Saslasky
- 16 Abe Kaminsky, grandfather of Jay Cohen
- 20 Samuel Cronenwalt, grandfather of Steven Cronenwalt
- 20 (18 Cheshvan) Harry Berenstein, father of Allan Berenstein
- 20 (18 Cheshvan) George Israel Moskowitz, father of Ron Moskowitz
- 23 Nathan Thal, brother of Sam Thal
- 23 (21 Cheshvan) Mary Goldman, grandmother of Jonathan Goldman
- 24 Esther Kalis, mother of Betty Kalis
- 24 Louis J. Nutes, grandfather of Barry Siegel
- 24 Sue Reid, friend of Carol Hoffman
- 25 Fred M. Weiss, grandfather of Wendy Weiss
- 28 Alvin Baum, Sr., father of Alvin Baum, Jr.

Note: Yahrzeits will be read at services on the Friday preceding the Yahrzeit date.

SPONSOR AN ONEG!

It's a great way to celebrate a special occasion.

Kosher Meals Offered

Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center has announced that the community is invited to dine on kosher meals prepared on the premises, the only such kosher eating place in Northern California open to the public on a daily basis. This service is offered to visitors as well as hospital patients and staff; freshly frozen take-out meals are also available. In addition to traditional Jewish meals, the menu includes many delicacies which are said to meet the highest standards of kashrut, nutrition and wholesome taste. Currently, only lunch and dinner are available. For more information, call 885-7382.

Sibling Notes

Cleveland: Chevrei Tikva celebrated the dedication of its new Torah, ark and other ritual objects.

Phoenix: Mishpachah Am, along with a supportive local rabbi and cantor, participated in a moving interfaith AIDS Prayer Vigil.

San Francisco: Ahavat Shalom's Board of Directors voted to donate \$100 to start a fund to aid in the repair of the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul. The Social Action committee prepared a brochure entitled "No on 64—A Jewish Perspective" which was distributed at many Bay Area synagogues over the High Holy Days, including Sha'ar Zahav.

Coalition To Meet Refugee Family

On Sunday, November 16, the San Francisco Jewish Sanctuary Coalition will host a social to introduce Coalition supporters to members of a Salvadoran refugee family recently released from incarceration through the efforts of Coalition members, including Sha'ar Zahav. This will be a chance to meet and talk with Samuel, Santos and the other members of their family, as well as to enjoy time together with our colleagues in the Coalition. Watch the Social Action bulletin board in the Oneg room for more details, or call Russell at 922-6946 for time and location information.

Women's Conference Moved to Sunny May

The women's conference has been rescheduled from the last weekend in March to the weekend of May 15, 16 and 17, 1987. We hope to take better advantage of Camp Swig's beautiful setting and swimming pool by having the conference in a sunnier month.

Our invitational flyers were well received at High Holy Day services, and the idea of a weekend conference for Jewish lesbians was greeted with genuine interest and enthusiasm. Almost 200 women signed up to be on a mailing list to get further information about the conference. If you or your friends are not already on this mailing list and aren't members, please call the office and leave your name and address so we can get information to you about this terrific event.

Working on this project is a perfect opportunity for new members to meet the other women of our community. Some of the work involved is even fun! Right now, we're looking for someone to coordinate publicity and outreach. Interested women should call Laurie at 824-7290.



Smiling faces greeted our visitors at the Women's Havurah welcoming table during High Holidays. PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

Want to be in a good "space?"
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If you want to place an ad for your business, contact Jay Feinstein, 621-6594.

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV

220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114

שַׁעַר זָהָב

(415) 861-6932

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Irene Ogus
Vice President, Richard Inlander
Treasurer, Jerry Rosenstein
Recorder, Ben Schalit

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Jay Feinstein
Robert Goldware
Eric Keitel
Allyce Kimerling
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Shirley Liberman
Mike Rankin
Susan Talley
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Member Union of American Hebrew
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Bikkur Cholim, Paul Cohen
Brotherhood, by committee
Building, David Gellman
Bylaws, David Gass
Education, Bill Goldstein
Family Havurah, Sue Douglass &
Jill Rose
Finance, Don Albert
Membership, Robin Leonard
Newsletter, Alex Ingersoll
Oneg, Peter Abinanti
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslafsky
Ritual, Daniel Chesir
Social Action, Ami Zusman
Social Program, Shirley Liberman
Women's Havurah, Marion Trentman

Services are held every Friday evening
beginning at 8:15 p.m., with an Oneg
Shabbat following services. Services
are generally held on the last Saturday
of each month at 10:30 a.m. — check
calendar for each month.

Data Managers:

Alita Rosenfeld
Jerry Rosenstein

Office Secretary:

Jacqueline Letalien

The Synagogue Office is open Tues-
day, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday and
Thursday, 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., and Friday,
10 a.m. to 1 p.m. At other times, please
leave a phone message.

Emergency Number: In an emergency,
the Congregation can be contacted out-
side of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is located
in the Upper Market District of San Fran-
cisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which
is one block south of the intersection of
18th & Market Streets. By public trans-
port, take MUNI bus 33 Ashbury to 18th
& Danvers and walk one block south on
Danvers to Caselli.



PHOTO BY AMY BLASENHEIM

The Ensemble lifts its voice—and our spirits—in song.

Chanukah Museum Exhibits

Two separate exhibitions celebrating Chanukah will open simultaneously at the Jewish Community Museum on Friday, November 14.

The first, an exhibition and sale of fine arts and crafts by more than 50 outstanding Jewish artists, intermixes Jewish ritual objects with contemporary jewelry, ceramics, drawings, paintings, prints and other art. Prices range from \$30 to \$3000. The exhibition will run through December 14.

The second exhibition, "Contemporary Bay Area Art: A Jewish Perspective," is a first of its kind for the museum. It will showcase the work of 20 local Jewish artists, and reflects the impact of Judaism on artistic expression. It will run through January 13.

The museum is located at 121 Steuart Street and is open from 10 am-4 pm every day except Saturday and Jewish/national holidays. For more information, call 543-8880.

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Cafe Latke Grande

Casa Sha'ar Zahav Presente Chanukah at

Cafe Latke Grande

Sabado evening December 27, 1986 8:00 - midnight

Temple auditorium Casa Sherith Israel
California & Webster (north of the border)

Fiesta: musica
entertainment
latke grande
salsa
refreshments
mexican trip raffle
silent auction
menorah lighting

Passport: #5 members #7 guests

Dress: colorful

bring your own menorah

